

**State Wildlife Commission approves hunting season**

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**Spring break means**

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**Carlisle Depot gets a new roof!**

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SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

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**Ninety-five school staff to receive lay-off notices**

**Won't be effective until 1997-98 school year**

**By Leigh Stone**  
Managing Editor

A spending freeze has been issued and approximately 92 staff members of the Nicholas County Schools will be notified in writing within the next two weeks they may not have their job next school year.

Those to get the letter include 80 classified staffers, including bus drivers, cafeteria workers and teachers aides, and a dozen non-tenured teachers, said Superintendent Randy Eversly. The reductions are being considered because the school system is almost definitely going to have a deficit this year, 1996-97, and needs to keep that from occurring next school year. School systems ending with a deficit are taken over by the State Department of Education whose officials then determine all expenditures, rather than the voter elected school board.

All 40 no-name classified staff members and 10-15 non-tenured teachers in the Nicholas County Schools system will receive the letters. Eversly said Monday afternoon, so there won't be a show of favoritism.

I haven't formed the letters of reduction before. Hopefully do that in mid-April. I believe the principals have already told the classified personnel. The board wanted to appear neutral. Eversly said adding that no positions are being eliminated before the end of the 1996-97 school year. Just that same staff won't necessarily have employment with the district during the 1997-98 school year.

**Classified staff reacts to notices**

**By Leigh Stone**  
Managing Editor

Some bus drivers won't mind getting a pink slip for next school year.

Some classified and food service workers will be dismayed. They need more than I need them, bus driver of 19 years Wayne Manley said Monday afternoon.

He would miss bus 932 and his route through Morefield, but, as Manley said, they can't get enough bus drivers as it is.

Transportation Director Bob Lane told everybody one on one as far as he knew. I told him it didn't matter to me one way or the other. They got to get drivers. They have to have the CBI, Class B training to get on farm tobacco as I still farm.

Bus driver Bill Fryman said he's got a bunch of fine fishing poles and three lakes on which to farm. A bus driver for six years, Bus 57 travels daily through the Cassin/Creeks area, simply because Fryman loves children. I just like kids. They don't pay me enough money

keep me at it now so if I didn't like kids I wouldn't do it. I've got grandkids in the system now. But, if his services aren't requested next year, he will make do. I'm not looking for something to do. I'm taking the next five years. I can keep busy.



Some bus drivers say they're not too concerned about not being rehired.

Fryman's wife, Helen, said things have changed along the years. Used to be that drivers were paid for as many hours on an extracurricular field trip as they worked. Now they get paid eight hours, no matter how many hours they worked. My fear is they'll fire them then try to hire them back at minimum wage. I'd say most of them won't

work for that. But as for my Bill, he's a working man. He's not much of a housecat.

Sharon Hodges, a teachers aide for 19 years, in a Nicholas County High School graduate. She watched her two sons graduate from NCHS and began her career at NCHS when son Rodney, the youngest, began second grade. I'm 47 years old. I have no idea what I'll do if not rehired. I mean, I wish that two teachers aides would be cut. I have the KET teacher chaser and the computer lab aide afternoon but they consider me a teacher's aide. The whole thing's a big mess.

**See Page 3**  
**for related story.**

According to one source close to an aide at the high school, one aide was told by Principal Greg Reid last week she wouldn't be rehired this fall. The source said the aide would be looking for employment as she is helping put her son through college.



**Championship cheering**  
The University of Kentucky Wildcats got plenty of support from those at Jack's Sports Club, Carlisle, Monday night, despite a national championship loss to The Arizona Wildcats. 70 in all in overtime. Pictured are Mike Rowland, the son, Justin Rowland, Ron Henery, Sue Watkins, Patsy Trussell and club co-owner Buddy Sables.

**"Whodunit" mystery dinner-theatre set June 13**

**By Joan Conley**

The Last Toast for Ronald Pidge, a murder plot is being hatched Friday night, June 13, at the home of Ronald Pidge (Josh Shepherd), the world's most successful game show host.

Who could commit something so terrible as murder? Could it be...

Maureen Pidge (Diane Wilks), Ronald's long suffering wife.

Perhaps it was Samuel Pidge, Tom Metcalfe (Ronald).

How far would he go to get his hands on millions? Or what if Sarah and Tony Bubbles

Megan Metcalfe and David Flora looking for revenge?

At the Nicholas County Elementary School in an angel, 100th class, Maynard Hampton (The Rev. Kevin Thomas), his less than faithful handyman, Thompson (Sam Caswell) and the celestial South's Society to solve the original murder mystery written by Josh Shepherd.

Witness the crime, question the suspects, and join your fellow society members to bring the murderer to justice.

A turkey dinner with all the trimmings, by Dana Mitchell, entering, will be served at 6 p.m. followed by the comedy play.

Tickets for \$17.50 each are being sold by the Nicholas County Historical Society for the Mystery Theatre Dinner Theatre, a first in Nicholas County.

A limit of 200 people may attend. Tables of 10 may be reserved, or individual tickets may be purchased from any director or at Neal's Square Deacon Mann Street.

They may also be ordered by mail by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope, with check made out to Nicholas County Historical Society, 149 O. Box 222, Carlisle, Ky. 40311. No tickets will be sold at the

door. Tickets are being limited based on the stage-viewing space available at the school.

**Proceeds to help fund Depot roof**

After intermission, each table will be allowed two questions of the suspects, and each table will then decide who that table believes committed the murder. If more than one table arrives at the correct answer, a drawing will be held for the table of 10 prizes to be awarded.

Practice weekly is already underway for the actors. And, Jim Simons' class is making the

reservations to make the Mystery Theatre Dinner Theatre after the 240 are sold will receive a refund. Reservations are must, and will be accepted until June 1, or until 240 are sold. Those interested in a fun and different evening of entertainment at a Mystery Dinner Theatre are encouraged to purchase their tickets right away.

All proceeds from the Mystery Dinner Theatre will go toward the cost of the new roof of the Carlisle passenger Depot, the home of the Nicholas County Historical Society and a moun-

tain community building in Carlisle.

**-In Brief- Fiscal Court**

The Nicholas County Fiscal Court has changed its regular meeting time for April to 4 p.m. April 15 at the office of the county judge executive.

The court usually meets the second Tuesday of each month.

Magistrates want to attend the U. S. 68 hearing at Blue Licks State Park, which was scheduled the same evening as its regularly scheduled time.



Bryan Ritchie

**Student of the Week**

Bryan Ritchie is this week's Student of the Week. He is the son of Jerry and Diana Ritchie.

A junior, Ritchie likes being a member of Future Farmers of America and playing basketball. His choice academic subjects are math and science.

Upon high school graduation, he plans to attend Eastern Kentucky University and study business management.

Ritchie was nominated by NCHS teacher Sue Kirby. "He is a good kid who never gives any problems. He's good to be around," said Kirby.

*The Carlisle Mercury will profile one student each week, chosen by the faculty of their respective school. Watch this space in future issues.*